

Ypsilanti GLEANINGS

Official publication of the Ypsilanti Historical Society, featuring articles and reminiscences of the people and places in the Ypsilanti area



Soldiers and citizens gathered in front of the barracks in Depot Town. This image is most likely from the March 8, 1862 celebration prior to the 14th Michigan Infantry Regiment's deployment in the Civil War.

A photograph of a young Civil War soldier Henry Rutgers Mizner.

Col. Henry Mizner, Camp Mizner, and the Ypsilanti Civil War Regiments

BY ROBERT ANSCHUETZ

A newspaper article from the March 19, 1862 of the Lansing State Journal begins with the byline: “*Camp Mizner, Ypsilanti. Saturday, March 8th, 1862.*” I know what you’re probably thinking – “Where in the heck was Camp Mizner in Ypsilanti???” It is fairly well known amongst Ypsilanti lore that the Thompson Block building at 404-412 N. River St. housed Civil War soldiers prior to them heading off to war. For this reason, the building has also been known as “The Barracks.” Some astute Ypsilanti history detectives may have also been aware of several references to a Camp Mizner in Ypsilanti. And some historians who like to dwell in the archives of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum may even know that Camp Mizner was named after Col. Henry Rutgers Mizner.

This article will attempt to answer many questions regarding the Civil War occupation of the building now known as the Thompson Block, such as which Army regiments occupied the building, what time frame the building was occupied, and what building or buildings comprised Camp Mizner. In researching this article, it seems like for every question answered, two or more questions arose. So, with that in mind, let’s explore the history of the barracks as part of Ypsilanti’s contribution to the Union’s victory in the Civil War.

Col. Henry Mizner, Camp Mizner, and the Ypsilanti Civil War Regiments
continued on Page 4



FALL 2024

In This Issue...

- Col. Henry Mizner, Camp Mizner, and the Ypsilanti Civil War Regiments 1
By Robert Anshuetz
- Fourteenth Michigan Infantry Regiment Fight Song 10
By Robert Anshuetz
- Jothan and Aurilla Goodell - Pioneers of Woodruff’s Grove and Conductors of a Station on the Underground Railroad 12
By Janice Anshuetz
- Treasured Memories:
Dan E. L. Patch 20
By McKinley Striggow
- New Look for Babyland 22
By James Mann
- Ypsilanti Baseball Teams 24
By Robert Anshuetz

Society Briefs

- From the President’s Desk 2
- Society Board Members 2
- Museum Advisory Board Report 19
- GLEANINGS Sponsors 29
- Membership & Advertising Application 31

The Ypsilanti Historical Museum is a museum of local history which is presented as an 1860 home. The Museum and Rudisill, Fletcher-White Archives are organized and operated by the Ypsilanti Historical Society. We are all volunteers and our membership is open to everyone, including non-city residents.

SCAN QR CODE FOR



YHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
www.ypsihistory.org

Ypsilanti HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Trustees:

Bill Nickels - President,
Alvin Rudisill - Vice President
Amy Singer - Treasurer
Pattie Harrington - Secretary
Maria Davis, Gerald Jennings,
Rick Katon, Marcia McCrary, Evan Milan,
Kirk Profit, Tom Warner, Daneen Zureich

Museum Advisory Board:

Nancy Balogh, Chuck Bultman,
Evan Milan, David Mongson,
Fofie Pappas, John Scanlon,
John Stewart, Nancy Taylor,
Daneen Zureich
McKinley Striggow/Graduate Intern

Archives Advisory Board:

Kim Clarke, Maria Davis, Rick Katon,
Russ Kenyon, James Mann
Alvin Rudisill, Louise Schmaltz,
Amy Singer, Tom Quigley,
Connor Ashley/Graduate Intern

Endowment Fund Advisory Board:

Don Loppnow, Bill Nickels,
Alvin Rudisill

Graduate Interns:

Archives: Connor Ashley
Museum: McKinley Striggow

Ypsilanti Historical Society

220 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Museum: 734.482.4990

Archives: 734.217.8236

www.ypsihistory.org

GLEANINGS Staff

Editor Al Rudisill
Assistant Editors..... Peg Porter
Fofie Pappas
Kathryn Ziegler
Kathy Gilden Bidelman
Kathy Badgerow
Design & Layout..... Pattie Harrington
Advertising Director McKinley Striggow
Finance Director..... Amy Singer
Distribution McKinley Striggow

If you have suggestions for articles
or if you have questions, contact
Al Rudisill at 734.476.6658 or
al@rudisill.ws.

Ypsilanti GLEANINGS is published 4
times a year by the **Ypsilanti Historical
Society**, 220 N. Huron Street, Ypsilanti,
MI 48197

From the PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY BILL NICKELS

Ladies Literary Club members visited the museum and archives on July 17. Visitors told me Archives Graduate Intern Connor Ashley and board members Fofie Pappas and Daneen Zureich gave wonderful tours. It is a service we provide for all groups and organizations.

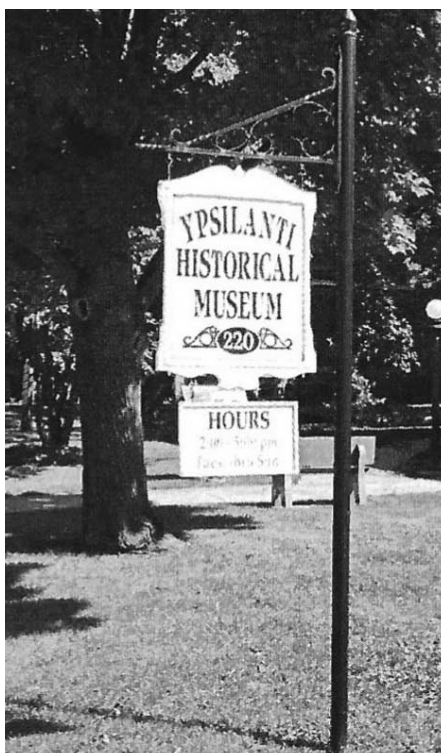
A Facebook post was recently noticed where records of a local Ypsilanti business were available. A reader mentioned donating them to the Ypsilanti Historical Museum while another reader wrote that it is only a museum and not an appropriate place for records. That is a symptom of the impression that our museum at 220 N Huron is just a museum. It is way more than that, we have the best document collection of Ypsilanti and Eastern Washtenaw County available in our Archives.

In June, our Board of Trustees approved changing the name of our building at 220 N. Huron Street from the "Ypsilanti Historical Museum" to the "Ypsilanti History Center." It best

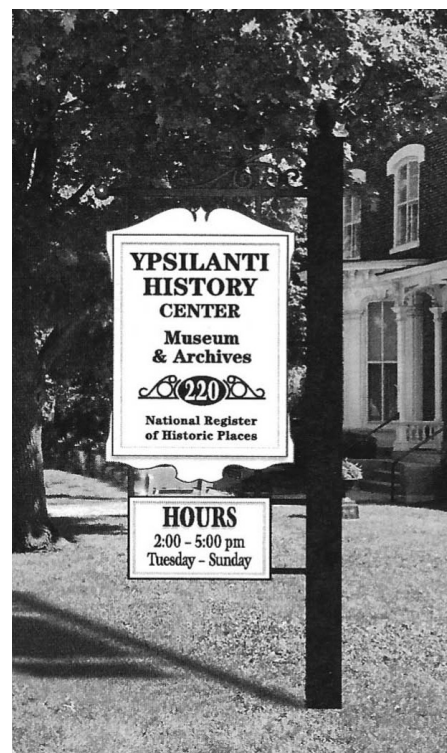
represents the contents of 220 N Huron Street! The legal name of the organization that owns and manages 220 N. Huron Street was and continues to be the Ypsilanti Historical Society.

In 2023, learning that our museum is on the list of National Register of Historic Places, Museum Advisory Board member Tim Sabo recommended that we acknowledge that honor on the outside of our building. A brass plaque attached to the building near the front door was first suggested. With the name change requiring a new sign, the National Register of Historic Places designation will be added to the new sign! Tim died suddenly earlier this year; I am sure he will be pleased that his recommendation will become a reality.

Our informal parlor is furnished with furniture and items from the 1920s including an early floor model radio. With a frayed power cord, it was dangerous to plug in. When it was plugged in, it did not work. While visiting the museum, retired electrical engineer



The YHS sign in the front yard that is being replaced.



A photo of the new sign that is being placed in the front yard of the Ypsilanti History Center.



The 1920s radio that retired electrical engineer Steve Rogacki repaired.

Steve Rogacki noticed and inquired about the radio. Learning that it did not work, he volunteered to fix it. Taking it home for a couple of weeks, the radio returned operational with a brand-new power cord and some repaired electronics! Volunteers with many different skills help make our facility first class.

Two sets of three casement windows were replaced with Andersen double-hung windows in our Carriage House apartments in August. The casement windows lacked storm windows and badly leaked air. Our tenants will be much more comfortable in both the summer and winter.

Our Quarterly Membership meeting on September 22 featured a program by Graduate Intern Connor Ashley. Using his computer, he demonstrated how our website can be used to research Ypsilanti topics. As an example, he researched the History of the Thompson Block. All our Quarterly Membership meetings with programs will be available remotely using Zoom. Zoom links will be sent to members via email. If we do not have your email address, send it to us for future programs!

We continue to grow our museum and archives collections from donations. As always, our focus is on Ypsilanti

Please think of us
when you discover
identified Ypsilanti
artifacts, documents,
yearbooks and
identified photos of
Ypsilanti area people,
houses, and buildings.

area people, houses, businesses and schools. Please think of us when you discover identified Ypsilanti artifacts, documents, yearbooks and identified photos of Ypsilanti area people, houses, and buildings.

Have a safe and fun fall season.



Two sets of three casement windows were replaced with Andersen double-hung windows in our Carriage House apartments in August.

Welcome to the Neighborhood!

We have been serving and supporting our community for over 20 years. Our office is centrally located at 529 N. Hewitt Road between Packard Road and Washtenaw Avenue.

Stop by and visit. If we haven't met, we welcome new patients. We provide professional family dental care with an emphasis on prevention. If you are new to the area, please check out our website for a map and directions to our office.

Kimberly RICE
DDS, PLC

🦷 FAMILY DENTISTRY 🦷

529 N. Hewitt Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
734-434-3820
www.kimberlyricedds.com
frontdesk@kimberlyricedds.com

Prior to the Civil War – the Norris Block

The site at the corner of River St. and Cross St. initially housed a commercial building owned by Mark Norris that was appropriately called the “Norris Block.” The Norris Block building was constructed in 1861 using bricks from the Western Hotel, also operated by Mark Norris, which was demolished across the street for an expansion of the Michigan Central Railroad station. There is evidence that the Norris Block building was completed in August of 1861 with some commercial tenants occupying the building. The Peninsular Courier newspaper ran an article on August 13, 1861 that stated *“The Norris Block, Ypsilanti, is complete and several of the stories are being occupied. The upper stories are being well furnished, and families are already occupying them.”* It didn’t take long before Mark Norris struck a deal with the Union Army to occupy the three-story building for use as a Civil War barracks. This transfer resulted in the families that had just moved in to quickly find new quarters. The commercial occupants on the lower floor were also forced to move. In October, 1861, the Union Army took over the building.

Fourteenth Michigan Infantry Regiment

In May of 1861, the Adjutant General of Michigan authorized Col. Robert P. Sinclair, of Grand Rapids, to raise a Michigan regiment of Irish Americans. At the same time, many Irish Detroiters were already joining other regiments such as the Mulligan Regiment. Thus, Sinclair’s Irish Regiment had trouble filling up the unit with only people of Irish ancestry, and opened their recruiting to men without Irish roots. Sinclair’s Irish Regiment was also known as the Michigan 10th Regiment. The October 18, 1861 Michigan Argus stated that *“Col. Sinclair’s Irish Regiment is fast filling up, and will go into rendezvous as soon as quarters are obtained. We understand that Ypsilanti is likely to be the place of rendezvous, and that the new brick block of Mark Norris, Esq., opposite the Railroad depot, has been tendered as quarters.”* Sinclair’s Irish Regiment moved into the Depot Town barracks soon after this article in October 1861 and became incorporated into the 14th Michigan Infantry, which was to grow to 10 companies.

The city of Ypsilanti welcomed their newly adopted 14th Regiment. The November 22, 1861 Michigan Argus stated: *“Tomorrow evening Profs Foote, Pixley, and Pease, are to give a concert in Union School Hall, Ypsilanti, the proceeds to be applied to the purchase of articles necessary to the comfort of the soldiers of Col. Sinclair’s regiment rendezvoused in that city. These gentlemen are excellent musicians, and the concert will be well worth attending. In addition to the music Prof. J.M.B. Sill will deliver a patriotic address during the evening.”*

The Peninsular Courier and Ypsilanti Herald newspaper of January 28, 1862, reported on the conditions at the barracks as follows: *“The regiment is stationed in a large brick*

building east of the depot. In the basement is the culinary arrangement. Each company cooks for itself. The boys have lots of fun. They have a debating society, and also hold dances in the upper story where they ‘balance to your partner’ in the genuine style, to the music of fiddle and bone. And then, we are sorry to say, there is another class who like to ‘pitch in’ and have a good fight. We saw three last week, one of which resulted in both participants being badly used up by a more sensible horse; they having got under his feet, he gently helped them by kicking them a rod or two.”

In addition to accommodating soldiers at the barracks, the site of Gilbert Park and Woodruff School on Congress St. (now Michigan Ave.) was known as “The Commons.” This site was used as a drill and training ground, and interested Ypsilanti citizens gathered to watch the soldiers go through their training. Throughout the time that the soldiers occupied the barracks in Depot Town, the women of Ypsilanti did their best to make them feel at home by forming the “Ladies Soldiers’ Aid Society.” The city was asked to donate items that would support the hospital located at the barracks, including sheets, pillow cases, towels, quilts, warm shirts, and material for lint and bandages. Depot Town’s Follett House served as a place for the officers in Ypsilanti to wind down and socialize in the evenings.

Henry Rutgers Mizner

The Ypsilanti barracks were named Camp Mizner in honor of Henry Rutgers Mizner. Mizner was born in Geneva, New York on August 1, 1827. He was a member of the Brady Guards in the Mexican War. His brother, John Kemp Mizner, was also in the Army, and was a Colonel in command of the 3rd Michigan Volunteer Cavalry. Capt. Henry Mizner served as the recruiting officer for the 18th Regiment of the U.S. Infantry based in Detroit. The Detroit Free Press posted a recruiting notice for volunteers to join the regiment, with a rendezvous at the Abbott Block on Atwater Street between Griswold and Woodward. The 18th Infantry Regiment mustered on May 14, 1861. Capt. Mizner continued recruiting for his 18th Regiment in Detroit and Kalamazoo. Later in 1861, Capt. Mizner was responsible for manning several of the companies of the 14th Michigan Infantry Regiment under direction of Col. Robert Sinclair.

A letter dated January 22, 1862 from a soldier stationed in Ypsilanti to his hometown newspaper in Grand Haven, Michigan, explains Mizner’s role in building the Regiment. Prior to mustering out, the 14th Regiment still was required to fill its full complement of soldiers and companies. The soldier wrote: *“On Tuesday last seven Companies of our Regiment were filled to the requisite number, and ever, and were mustered into the United States service by Capt. H. R. Mizner, U.S.A. Three more remain to be filled before we can consider ourselves complete as to numbers.”* This letter explains that Capt. Mizner filled out seven of the ten

Companies within the Regiment. Therefore, it made sense to name the camp location after Capt. Mizner, one of the Michigan Infantry officers responsible for building the Regiment. Henceforth, the name Camp Mizner was given to the Ypsilanti barracks and used for postal correspondence and military reference. It was only later in 1862 that Capt. Mizner would eventually assume command of the regiment occupying the barracks named after him.

Camp Mizner

The earliest documented reference to Camp Mizner was published in the October 27, 1861 Detroit Free Press. This was also the first regimental order issued by Col. Sinclair to the companies of the Irish Regiment. The article reads as follows:

The Irish Regiment.

HEADQUARTERS IRISH REGIMENT,

CAMP MIZNER, Ypsilanti, Oct. 25, 1861.

REGIMENTAL ORDER – NO. 1.

This regiment will rendezvous at Camp Mizner, Ypsilanti. Company commandants commissioned by me will proceed immediately to headquarters, with their respective commands, and report to the commanding officer.

ROBERT P. SINCLAIR, Colonel Commanding.

A letter documenting the conditions at the barracks in Ypsilanti was advanced to the Detroit Daily Advertiser newspaper dated December 4th, 1861. This letter showed that the barracks during this time were referred to as “Camp Mizner.” Along with many other newspaper articles at the time referencing the name Camp Mizner, there are several hand-written letters written by Civil War soldiers that use postal address was “Camp Mizner, Ypsilanti, Michigan.” It is important to understand that the term “camp” doesn’t necessarily connote a “campground” setting for soldiers. In Army lingo, the term “fort” is often confused with the term “camp,” but there is a difference. A fort is a permanent fortified defensive structure stationed with troops. A camp is a semi-permanent or temporary facility for the lodging of an army. Camps are also used as a home-station when a military force travels off to war. So, you can see by this definition, the Ypsilanti barracks qualified precisely for the “Camp” designation during the Civil War.

The same January 22, 1862, letter reference previously from the soldier to the Grand Haven newspaper described Camp Mizner as follows: *“The Government has provided, by renting a large four-story brick block as barracks for the troops. Any of you passing in your journeyings along the Michigan Central Railroad are within a stone’s throw of the building, when the cars stop at this place. On the right of the track, as you go West, look, as the cars stop, and see how provident Uncle Sam and our Colonel have been in regard*

to our comfort. A good parade ground in front, and the range of wide streets through and about the city for marching, gives all such convenience we need.”

A humorous account of Camp Mizner was also provided in the same letter from one of the Regiment’s soldiers to the Grand Haven newspaper. The letter accounts the medical exam of a man named Sawney as follows: *“The Surgeon one day had examined sixty recruits, was tired, of course, and was congratulating himself that his work was done for that day, in that line, when a stalwart six-footer presented himself for examination. The doctor omitted asking him what Company he belonged to, but told him to strip off his clothes, and made a critical examination as he is always sure to do, found him all right, tough and hearty and would make a capital soldier. ‘What Company do you belong to, sir?’ (With a Yankee twang.) ‘Nary Company, Doctor; I come into town this afternoon to sell a load of wood, and happened ‘round this way, and I kinder tho’t I’d stop in and see if I was sound!’ ‘Sound! Clear out of here!’ And the Doctor kicked his clothes into the street, and Sawney surprisingly went out in search of them, not appreciating the Doctor’s haste, any more than the doctor did Sawney’s turn of mind.”*

Besides the barracks, there are three houses occupying the property immediately to the north of the barracks. Those houses are known in Ypsilanti lore as the “Officer’s Quarters.” After searching numerous articles and letters contemporaneous to the Civil War, along with history books written long after, it was surprising that there wasn’t any definitive written evidence that they were used for that purpose, although they undoubtedly were. Photographs of the area from the Civil War include the three adjacent houses as if it were a campus of Army buildings, and a common fence enclosed the houses. The houses were also of the same exact style, which, although possible, wouldn’t have been typical of three houses in a row in the Ypsilanti neighborhood at the time. Other buildings, such as outhouses, detached cooking areas, hospital rooms, parade ground, etc., would also have formed part of the Army community occupying the area. So, a valid theory is that the entire compound of barracks, houses, outbuildings, and parade ground across from the Ypsilanti railroad depot was probably called Camp Mizner, not just the single three-story barracks.

Fourteenth Michigan Infantry Regiment Ceremony – March 8, 1862

The 14th Regiment was officially mustered into service on February 13th, 1862 with an enrollment of 925 soldiers, including 129 from Washtenaw County. On Saturday, March 8th, 1862, there was a large ceremony celebrating Ypsilanti’s 14th Regiment. The ceremony was attended by many dignitaries, including Michigan Governor Austin Blair as well as several military officers, including Capt. Henry Mizner. The March 9, 1862 issue of the Detroit Free Press documents that

this event may have been the one and only visit of Henry Rutgers Mizner to the camp bearing his name in Ypsilanti.

According to the Lansing State Journal article, the day of presentation lasted *"from morn till dewy eve, (and) has been one continual round of rejoicing and cheering, proceeding from the hearts as well as the throats of our brave boys of the Fourteenth."* The article mentions that there were sashes, canes, belts, swords, revolvers, and even a saddled horse presented from the volunteer soldiers to their commanding officers. The article went on to say, *"At 2 o'clock the Regiment, numbering nearly one thousand men, was marched to the spacious grounds east of the city that had been fitted up for the occasion."* (author's note: this was probably "The Commons" grounds on Congress St. across from Woodruff School). At this location, MSNS Professor J.M. Sill presented a beautiful stand of regimental colors on behalf of the ladies of Ypsilanti. The chair of music at MSNS, Professor E.M. Foote sang the *"Star Spangled Banner,"* and then *"together with the regiment, accompanied by the band, sang 'Wolverine Fourteenth,' a song composed expressly for our regiment."* The song was written to the tune of *"Old John Brown."* Once the exercises were over, the regiment *"paraded through the streets of the city, with our beautiful banner floating proudly between the platoons of the color company of the regiment, headed by our gallant and beloved field officers, marching to the music of our splendid martial and regimental bands, every man fully equipped, with his best habiliments (author's note: uniforms), and it was a sight Michigan might well be proud of. We returned to the barracks where three volleys were fired by Company B, and thus ended a day of presentations."*

The Detroit Free Press edition of March 9th, 1862 also reported on the ceremony that took place amongst the citizens of Ypsilanti. The article praised the unit for its readiness and orderliness. *"The discipline of the camp is excellent. All orders are promptly and cheerfully obeyed. The interior of the very comfortable barracks looks as elegant as a house newly garnished and swept. The bunks are ranged on either side of the rooms. The beds are neatly made up. The floors are cleanly swept, and spittoons are placed in the rooms. Any man who spits upon the floor is compelled to pay a fine. Thus order and neatness everywhere prevail, to the credit of the privates as well as the officers."*

Fourteenth Michigan Infantry Regiment – Civil War Engagements

The 14th Regiment departed on Thursday, April 17th, 1862 for St. Louis. The soldiers were paid their earned salaries prior to departure. To transport the entire Regiment, a train composed of two powerful Michigan Central Rail-

road locomotives named the Grey Hound and the Goliath, 21 passenger cars and 11 freight cars pulled up to the depot in Ypsilanti, finding the soldiers ready with knapsacks slung, canteens full, and ready to head south to engage in battle with the Confederates. The citizens of Ypsilanti were there

in masses to bid farewell to the troops. At 3 pm the train left, with each of the 10 companies occupying two cars each. The train arrived at Joliet, Illinois on the morning of Friday, April 18th, 1862. There, the train was divided into two divisions, and headed on the St. Louis, Alton, and Chicago Railroad to Alton, Missouri, 25 miles north of St. Louis.

From there they proceeded down the Mississippi River by the steamship "David Yatum," arriving at St. Louis on the morning of Saturday, April 19th, 1862. From St. Louis, the 14th Regiment made their way from the Mississippi River, to the Ohio River, and to the Tennessee River, where they joined the army of General Ulysses S. Grant at Pittsburg Landing in Tennessee shortly after the Battle of Shiloh was held there.

Meanwhile, Capt. Henry Mizner endured a severe sickness throughout much of 1862, and was absent for much of that time from his company. He rejoined them in September 1862 at Louisville, Kentucky. On November 11, 1862, Mizner was appointed to lead the 14th Michigan Regiment, replacing Col. Robert Sinclair who had resigned due to ill health and had returned to Grand Rapids. At the time, Mizner's rank was promoted to Colonel. During his time in charge of the 14th Regiment, he led them into battles at Murfreesboro, Tennessee and during General Sherman's Atlanta Campaign.

One notable story arose with the 14th Michigan Infantry Regiment on November 15th, 1863. Due to the dangers of war, as the regiments marched through southern territories, there were strict orders to remain together and not to stray from the formation. On this day, the 14th Regiment was ordered to travel from Franklin, Tennessee to Columbia, Tennessee, a distance of 23 miles. A soldier by the name of Michael Flynn along with another soldier named Michael Keely fell out of the ranks without the knowledge or consent of any officer, and returned to the city of Franklin to get whisky. After their debaucherous stint in Franklin, in order to catch up, the two soldiers raced their horses from Franklin to Spring Hill, dashing through the main column of the Regiment, and almost jostled Col. Mizner from his saddle as they rushed by him. Col. Mizner ordered them to halt, but they refused. Col. Mizner chased them up to the point where the troops were resting. Col. Mizner instructed them to dismount their horses and informed them that they would have to walk the rest of the way to Columbia. Michael Flynn yelled at Col. Mizner, then pointed his rifle in the direction of Col. Mizner, at which time Mizner drew his revolver and shot Flynn dead. The news was published in the local news-



A presentation gift inscribed to Col. Henry Rutgers Mizner – Colt Model 1861 Navy Percussion Revolver.

paper as an “outrageous murder.” The 14th Regiment responded with a letter published in the newspaper called the Niles Republican with the true account of the situation to clear the name of Col. Mizner.

The 14th Regiment occupied the area around Columbia, Tennessee, south of Nashville, from September 1863 until March 1864. The citizens of the city were very appreciative of the unit and how they treated the citizens. The citizens convened at the courthouse to draft resolutions thanking the 14th Regiment. It was written that “*They have driven guerrillas and thieves from this country clear to the Tennessee river, and have done more to create a feeling of respect and veneration for the old Government, than ten thousand bayonets and proclamations could have done.*” The resolution praised Col. Henry Mizner by saying that his leadership led to “*combining in an extraordinary manner the patience, the liberality and decision of a true soldier and the urbanity of a gentleman. Our heartiest good wishes go with him in all his future career.*” At the end of the war, Henry Mizner was brevetted Brigadier General of the U.S. Volunteers on March 13, 1865. He remained in the U.S. Army as a Major, and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the 10th U.S. Infantry on August 1, 1891. In 1904, he was brevetted Brigadier General by President Theodore Roosevelt.



Henry Rutgers Mizner's gravestone at Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit.

Another interesting finding is that the name “Camp Mizner” may have travelled with the 14th Michigan Infantry Regiment to Tennessee. In the book *Michigan in the Civil War: A Guide to the Material in Detroit Newspapers, 1861-1866*, published in 1965 by Helen H. Ellis, there is a reference to Civil War

field notes in the June 29, 1863 edition of the Detroit Advertiser and Tribune. The note of that day states: “*Field Notes: Camp Mizner near Nashville – 22d Inf. News, signed, A.E. Mather, Chaplain. 4:7.*” As we will soon see below, at this time Camp Mizner was no longer being used as the name of the barracks in Ypsilanti.

Moses Wisner and Camp Wisner

After the 14th Infantry Regiment departed Ypsilanti, there was approximately an eight-month gap (from April 1862 to December 1862) where the barracks weren't in full time use. The barracks were probably used during this period of time to care for the sick who hadn't yet mustered out, to enlist and train new recruits, to provide temporary housing, and to serve as a meeting area for various Ypsilanti-area Civil War events.

Starting in early 1863, Camp Mizner started to be referred to as Camp Wisner by newspaper publications such as the Detroit Free Press. This change of name from Camp Mizner to Camp Wisner coincided with occupancy by the 27th Infantry Regiment in the barracks. Moses Wisner served as the 12th Governor of the state of Michigan, from January 5, 1859 to January 2, 1861, just as the storm clouds of the Civil War were on the horizon. At the conclusion of his only term as Governor, Wisner returned to his home in Pontiac and practiced law. In September of 1862, Wisner was instrumental in the formation of the 22nd Michigan Infantry and was commissioned in the Union Army as Col. Wisner. While traveling to the regiment's deployment, Col. Wisner was stricken with typhoid fever. He died in a private home near

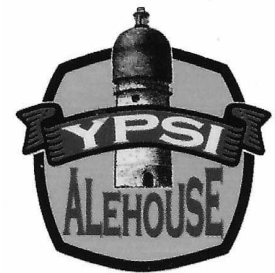
Historic Depot Town



Linda French
Owner

**56 East Cross Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198**

Phone: (734) 483-1035
Fax: (734) 483-1490
ladyfrench@aol.com
www.sidetrackbarandgrill.com



*Where good friends share
good beer and good food.*

*Located in the heart
of Ypsilanti.*

**CARRYOUT AND DELIVERY
Order at:**

<https://www.orderypsialehouse.com>
or call 734-487-1555

**124 Pearl Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Lexington, Kentucky at age 47 on January 5, 1863.

Although it would make sense to name the Ypsilanti camp in early 1863 in honor of the recently deceased former Governor Wisner, a year earlier in the April 4, 1862 issue of the Lansing State Journal Newspaper, there is a reference to "Camp Wizner," an interesting hybrid combination of Camp Mizner and Camp Wisner. Whether that was a typo, intentional, or an error is not clear. It certainly seems most likely that the name change from Camp Mizner to Camp Wisner would have taken place in January 1863, consistent with Col. Mizner's 14th Regiment no longer occupying the barracks, and the camp being renamed in honor of Michigan's recently deceased Governor and Civil War Colonel in conjunction with the new occupation by the 27th Regiment.

Twenty-Seventh Michigan Infantry Regiment

In December of 1862, the 28th Infantry Regiment went into camp at the Ypsilanti barracks. The 28th didn't have the success of the 14th in recruiting, and weren't able to fill the regiment within a 30-day deadline. One problem was that many young soldiers were attracted to the cavalry and artillery regiments instead of the infantry. Meanwhile, the 27th Regiment of Port Huron had never built up enough troops to fill their regiment either, with one of the issues being that potential recruits kept deserting their service call across the water to Canada. So, in February of 1863, the 27th Regiment of Port Huron joined forces with the 28th Regiment and the headquarters were relocated to the barracks in Ypsilanti as the combined 27th Regiment. Col. Dorus M. Fox was in command of this Regiment.

Special Order No. 1. Issued by Col. Fox was reported in the March 28, 1863 issue of the Detroit Free Press as follows:

Special Order No. 1.

HEADQUARTERS, TWENTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT

MICHIGAN INFANTRY VOLUNTEERS.

*CAMP WISNER, YPSILANTI,
March 26, 1863*

COL. HOWARD having received orders to pay the Twenty-seventh Regiment, it will probably be paid on next Thursday or Friday. It is therefore ordered that all men belonging to this regiment, whether absent on furlough or otherwise, report themselves in camp before that time.

**By order of
DORUS M. FOX, Colonel
commanding regiment.**

There were reports that Col.

Fox did not treat his soldiers well, and that there were many deserters. The situation grew out of hand and the Regiment felt a need to send an open letter published in the March 29th, 1863 Detroit Free Press debunking those rumors. On April 12, 1863 the 27th Regiment departed Ypsilanti for Louisville, Kentucky joining General Ambrose Burnside's command. The Detroit Free Press published the following account "*Off for the Field – The Twenty-seventh Infantry is announced to leave Ypsilanti this (Sunday) morning, at nine o'clock for the seat of war. They go to Louisville. Thus Michigan sends another one of her noble regiments into the field to aid in suppressing the rebellion. The prayers and good wishes of the people of the State go with them. They will maintain the honor and reputation of their State, and, when they meet the enemy, will, no doubt, give a good account of themselves. We wish them success, and a speedy return to their homes and friends, when peace shall have again smiled upon the country.*"

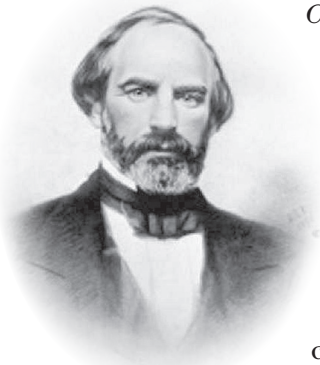
After the Civil War Barracks – the Thompson Block

After the 27th Infantry departed Ypsilanti in April 1863, it appears that the Union Army kept some sort of presence in the barracks. Again, as when the 14th Infantry departed, the building was probably used for recruitment, enlistment, and housing to visiting officers and troops.

By March of 1864, while the United States was still engaged in the Civil War, the barracks had reverted back to commercial and residential use. The building had new commercial occupants including Coates Meat Market, a new furniture store operated by A. Brooks, and it housed W.S. Atwood's attorney's office. Around 1870, Oliver E. Thompson moved into the building and manufactured wagons and agricultural tools. In the 1880's the Thompson name adorned the south wall of the building, and the building became known as the "Thompson Block." In 1916, Joseph H. Thompson, grandson of Oliver E. Thompson, opened a Dodge dealership at the north end of the building.

On October 22, 1902, a 40th reunion of the 27th Michigan Infantry was held in Ypsilanti. A fine meal was served and a program of music, speeches, and reminiscing was conducted. Mrs. Florence Smalley Babbitt was one of the organizers of the event. Her father, Mortimore Smalley, was enlisted in the 27th Michigan Infantry, and Florence's younger brother Albertus, was Michigan's youngest drummer boy in the unit. The 40th reunion of the 27th Infantry closed out the Civil War chapter of the barracks at Camp Mizner and Camp Wisner at Depot Town in Ypsilanti.

The Thompson family closed their business in 1950, and the building has been occupied by several businesses over the years since then. After many tries to resurrect the building, a 2010 fire almost completely destroyed everything. The building was ultimately spared and rebuilt in place, and is now occupied by a restaurant, bar, and loft apartments.



Moses Wisner, 12th Governor of Michigan, Col. in the Civil War, and after whom the barracks in Ypsilanti were renamed after his death with the occupancy of the 27th regiment.

Conclusion

After the Civil War, Henry Mizner remained in the Army as a Major. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the 10th U.S. Infantry on August 1, 1891. In 1904 he was brevetted Brigadier General by President Theodore Roosevelt. Henry Rutgers Mizner died in Detroit, Michigan on January 4, 1915 at the age of 87.

Historical evidence shows that the Civil War barracks in Ypsilanti were used to house two regiments prior to deployment in the Civil War – the Michigan 14th Infantry Regiment (as Camp Mizner, October 1861 - April 1862) and the 27th Michigan Infantry Regiment (as Camp Wisner, December 1862 – April 1863). Other regiments may have used the barracks as more temporary staging areas, such as the Michigan Light Guard (Company H of the 1st



Program cover of the 40th Anniversary of the 27th Michigan Infantry Regiment.

Michigan Infantry), the Michigan State Normal School Company (Company E of the 17th Michigan Infantry), and the 1st Michigan Colored Infantry. However, there is no concrete evidence that any of these companies occupied these barracks for any substantial period of time.

The three-story building was known as the Norris Block prior to the Civil War, and the Thompson Block soon after the Civil War. The houses adjacent to the barracks were most likely used for Officer's Quarters, but more research needs to be done to determine the dates that these houses were constructed, and who the original owners were. The Ypsilanti community is extremely fortunate that the building once used as a Civil War barracks was spared from the wrecking ball and fire and still is in use today. According to several sources, it is most likely the only Civil War barracks still standing in the state of Michigan.

(Robert Anschuetz grew up in Ypsilanti in the historic Swaine house at the corner of Forest Ave. and River St. He is a member of the 2023-2024 cohort of the YpsiWrites organization and a regular contributor to the Gleanings. This article owes a debt of gratitude to Tom Quigley, Connor Ashley, and James Mann, who spent a lot of time searching through old newspapers and other resources to get a more complete understanding of Col. Henry Rutgers Mizner, Camp Mizner, Camp Wisner, the various Ypsilanti-based Michigan Infantry, and Ypsilanti's important role in the Civil War.)



Kirk A. Profit

Profit Legal Services, PLLC



Kirk@profitlegalservice.com
(517) 525-7294

Fourteenth Michigan Infantry Regiment Fight Song

BY ROBERT ANSCHUETZ

The chair of the Department of Music of the Michigan State Normal School, Professor E.M. Foote, composed a fight song expressly for Ypsilanti's 14th Michigan Infantry Regiment titled the "Wolverine Fourteenth." It is sung to the tune of "Old John Brown."

(Robert Anschuetz grew up in Ypsilanti in the historic Swaine house at the corner of Forest Ave. and River St. He is a member of the 2023-2024 cohort of the YpsiWrites organization and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)

Wolverine Fourteenth

Cheer for the banner as we rally 'neath its stars,
As we join the Northern Legion and are off for the wars,
Ready for the onset, for bullets, blood and scars,
A cheer for the dear old Flag!

Chorus. – Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
 Glory! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
 Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Cheers for the sweethearts we are now forced to leave,
Think of us lassies, but for us don't grieve,
Bright be the garlands that for us you'll weave
When we return to your smiles.

Chorus. –

Blank looks in Dixie, when the Northern troops come,
Sad hearts in Dixie, when they hear the Victor's drum,
Pale cheeks in Dixie, when rattle shell and bomb –
And DOWN goes the Dixie rag.

Chorus. –

Swift heels in Dixie, but swifter on their track,
We'll meet them on them stamping ground and quickly
drive 'em back;
Nimble feet in Dixie, when they hear the rifle's crack
Of the Wolverine Fourteenth!

Chorus. –

YPSILANTI is the Hearthstone 'round which we've
gathered strong,
Woman's hand and loving hearts, here have cheered us
all along, -
Your blessings fill our hearts, as we shout the parting song
Of the WOLVERINE FOURTEENTH

Chorus. – Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
 Glory! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
 Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
 Three cheers for the dear old Flag!

Archives Intern Report

BY CONNOR ASHLEY

We have been hard at work this past month with our new newspaper digitization initiative. At the August YHS Board of Trustees meeting, the Board approved my proposal for this digitization initiative with an investment of \$11,000 for the purchase of a WideTEK 24F broadsheet newspaper scanner, a PlustekOpticBook A300 book scanner, and archival preservation storage materials and boxes. I am very impressed with the Board's willingness to both trust me and understand the need to digitize and preserve the newspapers we have in our collection.

The YHS Archives has nearly 25,000 individual pages of historic, physical newspapers in its collection, many of which do not exist physically in any other institution, or exist anywhere else at all. These include publications like the Ypsilanti Republican from the 1830s, the Ypsilanti Herald from the 1850s, and Ypsilanti High School's student newspaper The Ypsi Sem. We have purchased the WideTEK newspaper scanner and volunteers and I have been digitizing newspapers for over a week at the time of writing this. We are already at around 1,100 pages. We make these available through our webpage on the Internet Archive's website at [archive.org](https://archive.org/@ypsilanti_historical_society) under @ypsilanti_historical_society. There they are free to the public and word-searchable.

We are in the process of purchasing the Plustek book scanner as well. This particular book scanner allows

us to digitize any of the books, maps, atlases, diaries, and other bound materials that we cannot disbind. Many of which are one-of-a-kind materials. It has the ability to scan up to the A3 sized page. These digital scans will also be available on our Internet Archive account.

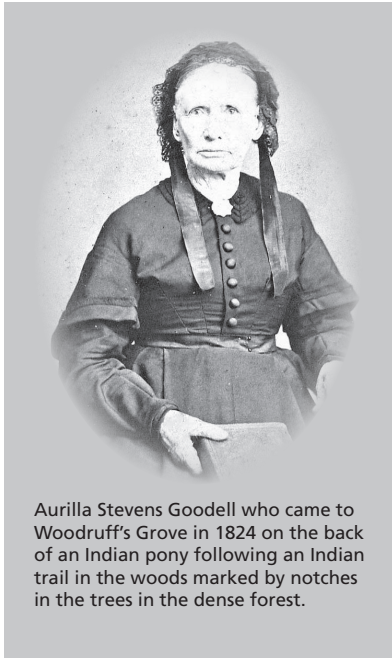
On Sunday, September 22nd, the Ypsilanti Historical Society had its Fall quarterly meeting where I gave the main program on how to utilize the physical and digital resources we have in the YHS Archives by showcasing the research process on the Thompson Block (Norris Block) in Depot Town. The program was titled "*Researching Depot Town: The Thompson Block.*" I very much enjoyed presenting the program and showcasing all YHS has to offer for researchers and Ypsilanti community members.

It is sad to say, but this is my penultimate archives intern report to you all. The intern positions with the Ypsilanti Historical Society in conjunction with the EMU Historic Preservation program are two-year positions and I am coming up on my two-year anniversary here this January. The process to find my successor in the EMU HP program has begun and I look forward to introducing everyone to that person in my final report in the Winter issue of the Gleanings.

Thank you all for your support during my tenure in this position!



The WideTEK 24F broadsheet newspaper scanner recently purchased for the YHS Archives.



Aurilla Stevens Goodell who came to Woodruff's Grove in 1824 on the back of an Indian pony following an Indian trail in the woods marked by notches in the trees in the dense forest.



When Aurilla finally arrived at Woodruff's Grove in 1824, she was met with six crude and hastily built log cabins similar to this one along with Woodruff's Tavern which was a large log cabin boasting a floor and chimney.

JOTHAN & AURILLA STEVENS GOODELL — Pioneers of Woodruff's Grove and Conductors of a Station on the Underground Railroad

BY ROBERT ANSCHUETZ

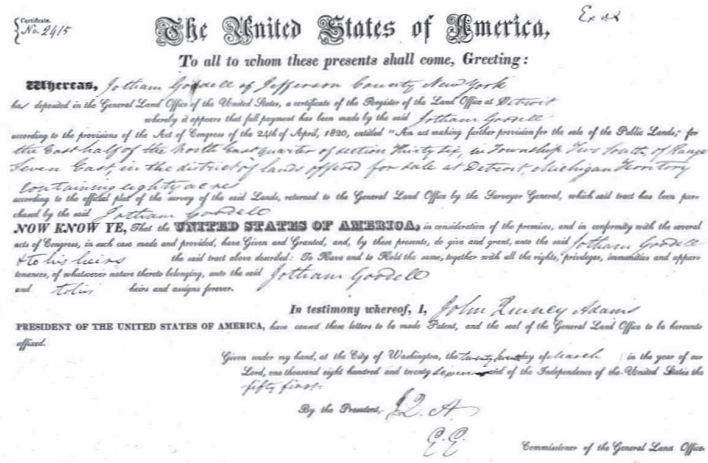
Exactly two hundred years ago, in 1824, a 19-year-old freckled face, strawberry blond young woman arrived at her destination of Woodruff's Grove (which later became known as Ypsilanti, Michigan) on a horse after a difficult trip from New York State. She must have been weary and saddle sore but she was also optimistic, a hard worker, spunky and brave. Let me tell you what I have learned about her and her family and their courage in making a good life for themselves in the wilderness and also being part of the Underground Railroad, risking their own freedom and wealth to help slaves find a life which was free from bondage in Canada. I hope that you find this historic trip back to 1824 and beyond as interesting as I did.

I want to share with you a reminiscence which was written in 1931 by Rilla Dunlap, niece of Aurilla Goodell, for a Good-

ell family reunion. It reads "Aurilla Stevens Goodell was my mother's sister. My mother died when I was eighteen months old. My father broke up housekeeping to go to California to work in the gold mines. I was taken to your grandmother's (Aurilla Goodell) with an older sister when nearly three, raised with and as one of the family.

Aurilla Stevens was born in the town of Painted Post, Steuben County, New York State, the oldest of a family of four. She came to Michigan with some neighbors when a young woman, leaving her father, mother and brothers and sisters.

Quite an undertaking I should say. From Detroit she rode an Indian pony to what is now Ypsilanti, following an Indian trail of notches cut in the trees. At that time Ypsilanti consisted of one large log house, termed Woodruff's Tavern, and some half-dozen



Jothan Goodell land grant documenting his purchase at \$1.25 an acre. The land grant was authorized by John Quincy Adams.

smaller cabin homes.

She hired out to Woodruffs to card and spin. In those days people had to spin and weave cloth for their clothing; cloth made from flax or woven from wool, whichever they were fortunate to have...Here is where your grandfather Goodell appeared upon the scene. One year after her coming to Ypsilanti."

Jothan and Aurilla's son, Solon continues the story of the arrival of his father to Woodruff's Grove in a letter he wrote in 1917. "My father Jothan Goodell and grandfather Leyman Stevens (father of Aurilla) came to Michigan in 1824 in a flat boat up the Huron River all the way from Lake Erie with a loan of goods and landed finally at a point about where an old tannery was built known as Howland's Tannery...Father brought three small boys, sons of a former wife (author's note: he was a widower) and they stayed one year and then were sent back to Watertown New York where they came from."(-Author's note: I have found out that this landing was about where the Forest Avenue bridge now crosses the Huron River, close to where the Godfrey Trading Post was located which was at the south end of what is now Riverside Park, and also close to the Mark Norris store and mill which were on the south east side of the river where the Michigan Avenue bridge now stands). "His sons were named



Jothan Goodell was a shake (shingle) maker by trade when he came to Ypsilanti.

Joel, Ambrose and Ancel and the family story is that they were returned to New York to be raised by friends."(-Author's note: Solon also said that his father Jothan remained employed by the Godfrey trading post on the river for about a year, which means that the trading post was rebuilt and continued to operate after it was burned down with British prisoners inside about 1813 during the war of 1812. There is also evidence that it was a voting place in 1826).

Jothan was a skilled shingle maker and also worked for Mark Norris, poling goods to his store from Detroit. Rilla Dunlap continues her story. "His work at that time was what they called making shake, using them to roof their homes, barns and other buildings with. After cutting logs the



Your Neighborhood Grocery Store

Locally-made bread,
fresh produce,
whole organic foods,
Deli-made organic
sandwiches & salads
to go, local beer &
wine, dairy and meat,
and hundreds of
bulk herbs, spices, &
other foods!

Curbside Pickup Available
Email your list to
curbside@ypsifoodcoop.org



312 N River St, Ypsilanti
734-483-1520

Like the Ypsilanti Historical Society loves preserving the past.

We love to help.
How can we help you?
boaa.com

bank of
ann arbor helps

Member FDIC

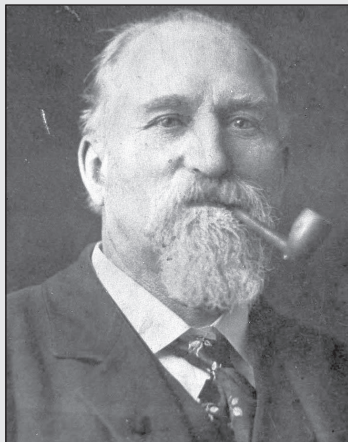
right length and splitting them as thin as possible, holding them on a wooden 'business' they called a horse, with drawing knife they were shaved down thin enough to use."

She then tells us that "After being acquainted one year, Aurilla Stevens and Jothan Goodell were married, (1826 at Woodruff's Grove), came out about five miles northeast of Ypsilanti bought the eighty acres of land later owned by their late grandson, M. Austin Kanouse, buying it from the government at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, where they lived their remaining years, died and were buried from their old home."

"Their first home was a one room log shanty they built after chopping a clearing for it. A fireplace was built of stone and mud in one end and that was where they did their cooking. Their floor was boards split from logs as thin as possible. Their first meal was eaten sitting on what floor was lain with their dishes and food between them, their feet resting on the ground. Their dishes consisted of a few cracked plates, old knives and forks given them by the Woodruffs where she worked.

Their first bed was built with holes bored in the logs, poles put in with legs fastened in, strips of basswood bark peeled from trees lain on, their blankets lain over them. I have heard her say (that) for three years to keep her warm when she went out was a square of flannel for a shawl.

Bears, wolves, and wild turkeys were plentiful, and the Indians but friendly. Your grandfather (meaning Jothan)



Solon Goodell, son of Aurilla and Jothan, who besides being a prosperous farmer was both a Michigan state senator and in the house of representatives and was interviewed about his parents' role in the Underground Railroad.



Harriet Goodell - one of Jothan and Aurilla Goodell's daughters.

was quite an expert in curing the hides of animals he killed, which helped them out. Their first brooms were made from a hickory stick, selecting a smooth stick, of the right size, peeling the bark, then placing one end of it in warm water, holding it in the vice with his foot, he would peel down little fine shavings, leaving them fastened near the end. When this brush was large enough, he would tie them tight over the end with a leather thong, then shave off the upper part for a

right sized handle for a broom.

They fenced a little yard around the house with bars to protect themselves. I have heard her say, in spending the evening at Pines (Benjamin Pine and his wife, Mary, were neighbors), the wolves would follow them home. Could see their tracks in the frost on the bars in the morning. In felling a tree, it struck one corner of the house, knocking their gun down and damaging it so they could not use it. A very large bear got in the enclosure. Jothan told her to watch it while he ran to (the) Pines to borrow a gun. She climbed a ladder and went on top of the house. (Author's note: most cabins had ladders against the house and next to the chimney. Chimneys were built so that they could be knocked off of the cabin in case of a chimney fire which was quite common.) It came and put its feet on the rounds of the ladder then went a little out of sight. She climbed down, grabbed an axe, got in and closed the door and said if it tried to get in the window she would chop its feet off. They did not get it that time, but did later. A very large bear. They had



636 S. Mansfield Ave.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Tel: (734) 483-5811
Fax: (734) 483-9701

YPSILANTI MUSEUMS



Michigan Firehouse Museum

110 W. Cross St. – Ypsilanti 48197

734 547-0663

www.michiganfirehousemuseum.org

Hours: 12 to 4 Thursday thru Sunday

Admission (online pricing):

Adults - \$10 • Kids - \$5 • Kids (under 5) Free



Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum

100 E. Cross St. – Ypsilanti, MI 48198

734 482-5200

www.ypsiautoheritage.org

Hours: 1 to 4 Thursday thru Sunday

Admission: Adults - \$10 • Kids (under 12) Free



Ypsilanti House Museum & Archives

220 N. Huron St. – Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Museum 734 482-4990

Archives – 734 217-8236

www.ypsihistory.org

Hours: 2 to 5 Tuesday thru Sunday

Admission: Adults – Free Kids – Free



Yankee Air Museum

47884 D St. - Belleville, MI 48111

734 483-4030

www.yankeeairmuseum.org

Hours: 10 to 4 Tuesday thru Saturday

11 to 4 Sunday

Admission: Museum Members – Free

Adults - \$13 • Seniors (60+) & Vets - \$10

Kids (3 to 17) - \$10 • Kids (Under 3) – Free

After the Fugitive Slave Act it became a federal crime, punishable by imprisonment and/or confiscation of property, to help anyone escape slavery. Jothan and Aurilla Goodell risked all that they owned and had worked for to help others safely escape slavery.

a trough with soap grease covered over. One night he came and they heard him. He got their soap grease and a small pig the same night.

With grease scraps and lye made from ashes they made their own soap. Years later they had a neighbor living across from them. I have heard your grandmother (Aurilla) tell it many times. This neighbor had a nice long handled skimmer hanging up, bright, shining and new. She said she often wished she had one like it. Well they made a trough of soap, and had it under a shed coverer. They went out one morning and found most of their soap was gone. But lying right there was the skimmer covered with soap. She took it in, washed it and hung it up in plain sight. No one came to claim it, so she had the skimmer.

In speaking of hard winters, I remember their telling of the time that they had gotten quite a start. A piece of ground cleared, corn planted, and a garden. At that time they had one cow and a heifer calf. There came a hard frost that killed everything. He had to fell trees for his stock to browse to keep them alive through the winter.

How long they lived in the log cabin, I do not know. My first recollections are of a frame house, old and weather beaten, two large rooms, one bedroom off the west room, a large pantry off the east, two large fireplaces, one in each room. The girls had the bedroom, old people a bed in the west room. Mine was a little trundle bed, shoved under the bed in the morning, pulled out at night.

They were a hard-working couple and frugal. He did not believe much in higher education, reading, writing and arithmetic being the essentials. I think for years they made most of their money raising blooded cattle and horses. Always managed to have a farm for his sons when

they married, daughters had money. He was a great reader himself, as far as news of the times was concerned. He never went to church. On Sunday afternoon the Bible was the book they read the most. Never allowed any work done on the Sabbath except that which was essential. I do not think he ever had a lawsuit. His word was as good as his bond any time. I never remember his having any trouble with his neighbors. Never heard him use an oath, his loudest word when angry was "dum it."

Eight children were born to them. Mary, who lived to be three, William, Hart, Aurilla, Pike, Harriett, Solon and Henry. Jothan Goodell was born in 1798 and died July 24th, 1871, aged 73 years. Aurilla Stevens Goodell was born in the year 1803, died January 28th, 1880, aged 77 years and five months.

When Jothan Goodell died the (Ypsilanti) Commercial (newspaper dated) July 29, 1871 made special mention of his passing: Mr Goodell was one of the first settlers in the Township of Superior. He lived on the farm he bought at Government prices forty-six years ago, and with his own hands he cleared the land, and made it one of the best farms in the County. Honest and industrious he went down like a shock of corn fully ripe."

Now, this could be a good ending to the story of two moral and brave pioneers and their difficult yet constructive lives. However, I wanted to know more about them than what their foster child Rilla Dunlop told us and was surprised with what I found out. My guess is that Rilla didn't know this important part of their life story because it was illegal, and even 50 years after the Civil War ended a family secret like this was not discussed because it was a criminal act at the time. THIS IS IT - Aurilla and Jothan Goodell became

part of a secret network called the Underground Railroad which was against Federal Law at the time and could well cost them their farm and property, and could have had them arrested where they would have spent time in prison.

The Underground Railroad: Now, dear reader, like me you might have thought that the life story of these hard working and brave pioneers of Woodruff's Grove was a fascinating one and wrapped up, but here comes the interesting part which I have been able to authenticate in various books and a narrative by their son, Solon. If you have an interest in the REAL story of the Underground Railroad in Ypsilanti, I suggest that you read these three books for a start: *The Underground Railroad in Michigan* by Carol E. Mull, *A Fluid Frontier* edited by Karolyn Smardz Frost and Veta Smith Tucker, and *The Dawn of Detroit* by Tiya Miles. All are carefully researched and will give you a true picture of the past and the bravery and cunning of those who risked their lives to escape slavery and the dedicated people who helped them achieve their goal and who lived in the area of Ypsilanti.

It is a well-known fact that George McCoy and his family, who lived behind the Starkweather home on Huron River Drive, were active participants in the Underground Rail-

road. The property, where their home once stood, is part of the National Parks Service Underground Railroad Trail, as the sign on the lawn proudly designates. McCoy, a skilled cigar maker, bought his own way out of slavery and when the slave owner of his true love refused his offer to purchase her, he helped her to escape by traveling through Ypsilanti on their way to Canada. Once settled in Canada with a farm of his own and an established family, the McCoys decided to come back to Ypsilanti and continue his business of raising tobacco as a crop, manufacturing cigars and selling the tobacco leaves for this purpose, yet also a secret purpose – using the cover of tobacco leaves in a horse-drawn wagon with a false bottom to transport those freedom seekers to River Rouge where they would then be transported across the Detroit River to Canada and freedom.

Now, we have read that Jothan Goodell prided himself in breeding fine horses and cattle. When McCoy needed fast or strong horses to pull the false-bottomed wagons he could rely on Jothan to lend them. Furthermore, the Goodell farm, which was located on Geddes Road, east of Ridge Road in Superior Township, Washtenaw County, also provided respite for slaves seeking their freedom. Goodell in partnership with a man named Walter Watson, was an “enthusiastic” anti-slavery warrior, according to his son Solon Goodell.

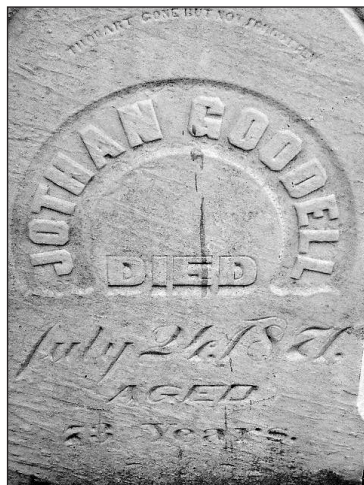
E EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



Professional Programs & Training (PPAT) offers practical, relevant and timely professional development, test prep and certificate programs to help you gain the skills, knowledge and credentials you need to excel and advance in your workplace and career. Whether it's online, in a classroom or at your workplace, our non-credit courses and certificates are designed with your success in mind. Do you have a group that needs training? PPAT partners with businesses, professional organizations and government agencies to deliver customized programs to help you meet your business goals and compliance requirements.

Office: 203 Boone Hall, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | Call: 734.487.2259 or 800.932.8689 | Email: ppat@emich.edu

The following interview was found in a collection in the Wilbur H. Siebert Collection Microfilm Edition, MIC 192, at Ohio State University. Wilbur Siebert, who first taught at Ohio State University and then at Harvard was an esteemed scholar on the anti-slavery movement and traveled extensively in the late 1800s to gather information and interview participants. Jothan and Aurilla's son Solon Goodell was a farmer and also a state senator and knew first hand of the activities of his father Jothan, and his partner Watson. Parts of the interview which pertain to this article is quoted below. It was taken on July 28, 1895, recorded by Siebert:

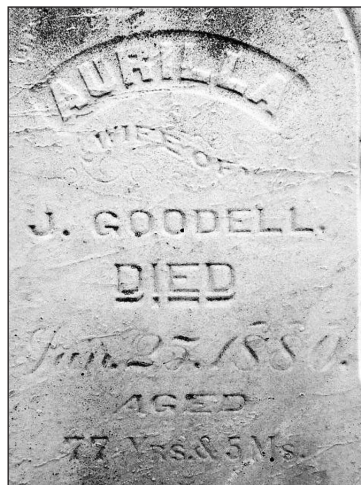


Jothan Goodell is laid to rest at the Cherry Hill Cemetery on Ridge Road just south of Cherry Hill Road, not far from the farm he lived at in Superior Township.

"I was born in Superior Township Michigan and have always lived there. November, 1840 was the time of my birth. My father's name was Jothan Goodell. He came to Michigan in 1824 from the state of New York and located a piece of land in Superior. He lived over 50 years on it and died in 1884, at the age of 83 or 84. He raised a family of eleven. He was not a member of any church organization-but was an enthusiastic abolitionist. There were only 7 abolitionists in the county at the time. My father used to take produce clear to Detroit by wagon and took fugitives with him. Superior was 2 miles north and 3 miles east of Ypsilanti. Probably the fugitives came to father from Adrian, Michigan. They were stored in our barn which stands on the old farm today (this was in 1895) now remodeled a little."

"Walter Watson of Canton, Wayne County. - the adjoining town of Superior, lived only a few rods from my father's farm. He was in the U.G.R.R. (Underground Railroad) with my father. There is no mistake about it. He was a prominent man in his town, raised a large family, and was a bugler in the regular army (author's note: referring to the Civil War). Father used to take the Negroes from the loft of the barn which stood 30 rods from the road and deliver them to Rough's (Rouge's on the banks of the River Rouge) hotel - now called Inkster - 8 miles from Detroit on the Detroit and Saline Plank Road as they used to call it and Rough (Rouge) would see that they got further. I've heard father say that they were placed across the River at Trenton (used to be called Gibraltar) mouth of the Detroit River some would call it Brest- and so escape Detroit. They were no doubt ferried across. My father used to find in his

barn sometimes an old fashioned-lynch pin wagon which would be partly or wholly covered with a canvas, hay inside and two or three Negroes in the hay. These were usually put in the grain-crib part of the barn for secrecy. I can give you the names of two Negroes who went through and after a while came back to our neighborhood and worked around and chopped wood. Granger was one and William Davis was the other."



Aurilla Stevens Goodell is buried next to her husband Jothan Goodell in the Cherry Hill Cemetery.

Now, my telling of the life and legacy of Jothan and Aurilla Goodell is over. At the time that they were "enthusiastic" participants in helping slaves find free-

dom they were breaking federal law and going against the norms of society. Punishment could certainly have meant jail time and a confiscation of all of their property including the farm, livestock, home and everything that they had worked so hard to acquire. Solon adds dimension and drama to his parents' lives as well as an element of courage not included in the narrative of their niece Rilla Dunlop.

If you are at all interested in the Underground Railroad movement in Ypsilanti, I strongly suggest that you read about it in the three well-researched books which I have recommended above. Because it was a federal offense at the time, even close family members kept the secret well and we are grateful for Solon Goodell's interview.

A special note of gratitude and appreciation to David Stabler, the direct descendant of Aurilla, Jothan and Solon, for sharing information about these amazing people and helping to introduce them to you. He is also the nephew of Donald Stabler whose biography was published in the Gleanings in the Winter 2023 issue available along with all of the other Gleanings issues at ypsihistory.org. The YHS archives has a wonderful memoir written by Donald Stabler about his family and his life along with a great deal of information about his ancestors.

My next article will tell you a little bit more about Solon Goodell and his interesting life. I never know where I will end up while doing research. The YHS archives are a marvelous and magical place.

(Janice Anschuetz has lived in the historic east side of Ypsilanti for over 50 years. She is an Ypsilanti historian and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)

Museum Advisory Board Report

BY EVAN MILAN, CHAIR

While not too much has changed visually at the museum in the past few months, a number of developments have been underway that will continue to propel our valuable community resource into the future. Chief among the improvements we have undertaken this past summer is that we have begun to service our many mechanical artifacts so they are in working order. Our 1869 Steinway and Son's square Grand Piano has been undergoing some extensive work to put it into a playable condition. This work has been undertaken by Grape's Piano Service and the results are exceptional for a piano of its vintage. Our 1932 General Electric H-31 Radio is now, also, in working condition; thanks to a volunteer electrician who spotted the radio on tour of the museum. We can now hear WJR broadcast to Ypsilanti from the Golden Tower of the Fisher Building in Detroit.

On a note that may not be noticed by the casual visitor, the Board of Advisors, and the Board of Trustees have been evaluating our procedures in times of emergency. While there are no notable events that have transpired at the museum, we all agree that any event would be one too many for actions to be taken to mitigate instances in

the future. We are now proud to state that we have taken precautions including extensions to our existing security system and implementing annual safety briefings for our volunteer members. Ypsilanti is a welcoming and safe place to spend your time; it is not in reaction to any instances of crime that have urged these improvements, but a reaction to an understanding that we did not have sufficient precautions in place to begin with.

Looking ahead, the holiday season is closing in. In continuation of our inaugural Halloween event last year, we will be holding another story telling event this year. Keep an eye out on our social media pages for more information on the event as Halloween grows nearer. Planning for our annual Christmas event, too, has gotten underway. In keeping with Tim Sabo's lead in 2023, we will be planning a Christmas through history. This year we will be highlighting the post-Civil War era and the post WWII era. This Christmas we will also be honoring the memory of our friend and tireless volunteer, Tim Sabo, who passed this past spring after a brief illness.

Also, please look for the continuation of the history of Brown Chapel in our Winter edition of the Gleanings.



Tradition.

Gene Butman Ford is a company that believes in tradition. For the past 60 years we have sold and serviced some of the best vehicles on the road, Ford Motor Company vehicles. We are proud to represent a company that has a rich tradition in our community. Our Ypsilanti community is what sustains our family owned and operated business. The Butmans would like to thank our customers and our community for keeping our traditions alive. Customer service, loyalty, honesty and empathy are values our team hold close to their hearts and give each day to our customer.



www.butmanford.com



Dan Patch served as the Chief of the Ypsilanti Police Department from 1941 to 1948.

Treasured Memories: Dan E. L. Patch

BY MCKINLEY STRIGGOW

On September 23, 2024, three loving sisters donated a wicker basket filled with mementos from their grandfather Dan E. L. Patch. Patch joined the Highland Park Police Department in 1915 and served until December 1, 1941, the last 14 years as chief. After retirement he became Ypsilanti's Chief of Police, serving from late 1941 until May 1, 1948, when he replaced the late Ralph L. Southard. Patch's successor in Ypsilanti was Harold E. Haun.



Dan Patch – Ypsilanti Chief of the Police Department.

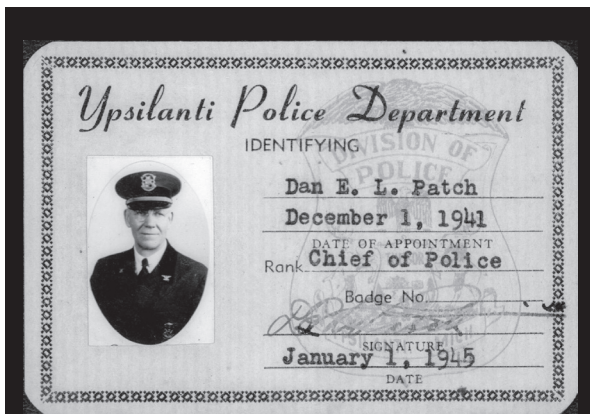
A deeply religious man, Dan dedicated his life to being a good public servant, a family man, a published writer, an accomplished speaker, and a gifted cartoonist. His granddaughters - Susanne Johnston, Margaret Bender, and Gretchen Maybee - shared wonderful stories of their grandfather, passed down through the years, during their visit from their respective home towns of Kalamazoo and Richland, Michigan.

One memorable story recounted how grandpa Patch pulled over Henry Ford for speeding while serving as chief in Ypsilanti. Approaching the car, Patch was surprised to find Mr. Ford at the wheel. Graciously, Ford was let off with a warning. At this time, Ford's Bomber Plant at Willow Run was bustling, and the Willow Run Village housed as many as 42,000 workers. Patch was likely brought in as chief due to his proven record in directing police services during the expansion of the Ford Highland Park plant. As the new Chief of Police, he began surveying the area around the Ford Motor Company plant to assess the type and extent of police services needed in the coming years.

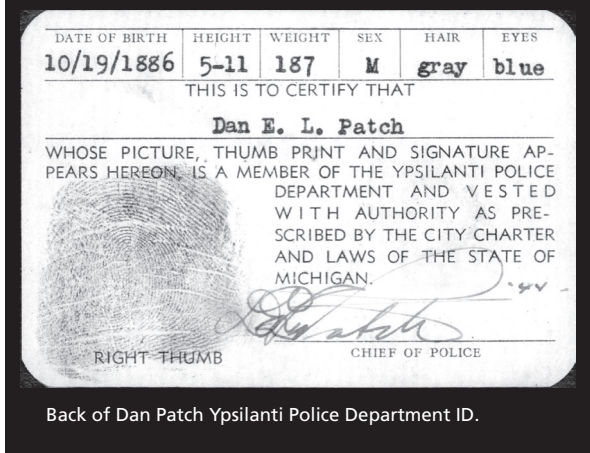
Many long-term careers in the Ypsilanti Police department began after Chief Patch's tenure, including several individuals featured in the framed Ypsilanti Police Department document from April 1948. Notable names include Joseph Sackman, Vance Bodary, Laverne Howard, Ray Walton, Arthur Kramer and Emil Susterka. Among Patch's lead detectives were Sergeant Ralph Moxley and Lieutenant William Reiman.

Other donated items include, Dan's personal bible, newspaper clippings from his time as Chief of Police, a letter to his daughter describing troubles with a thief on North Huron Street, various photographs, an email chain describing his birth, two revolvers from his time on the police force, a gun cleaning kit, brass knuckles, a shortened leather billy club, miscellaneous badges, his police id card, and handcuff keys with instructions on how to unlock handcuffs. His life will be displayed in the museum soon, stop by and see it.

(McKinley Striggow is a student in the Historical Preservation graduate program at Eastern Michigan University and an intern at the Ypsilanti Historical Society museum.)



Dan Patch Ypsilanti Police Department ID.



Back of Dan Patch Ypsilanti Police Department ID.



Newspaper clipping from the time Dan Patch served as Ypsilanti Chief of Police.



Items donated to the Ypsilanti Historical Society Museum by the Dan Patch family.

Edward Jones®



Life is for living. Let's partner to help you make every single moment matter.

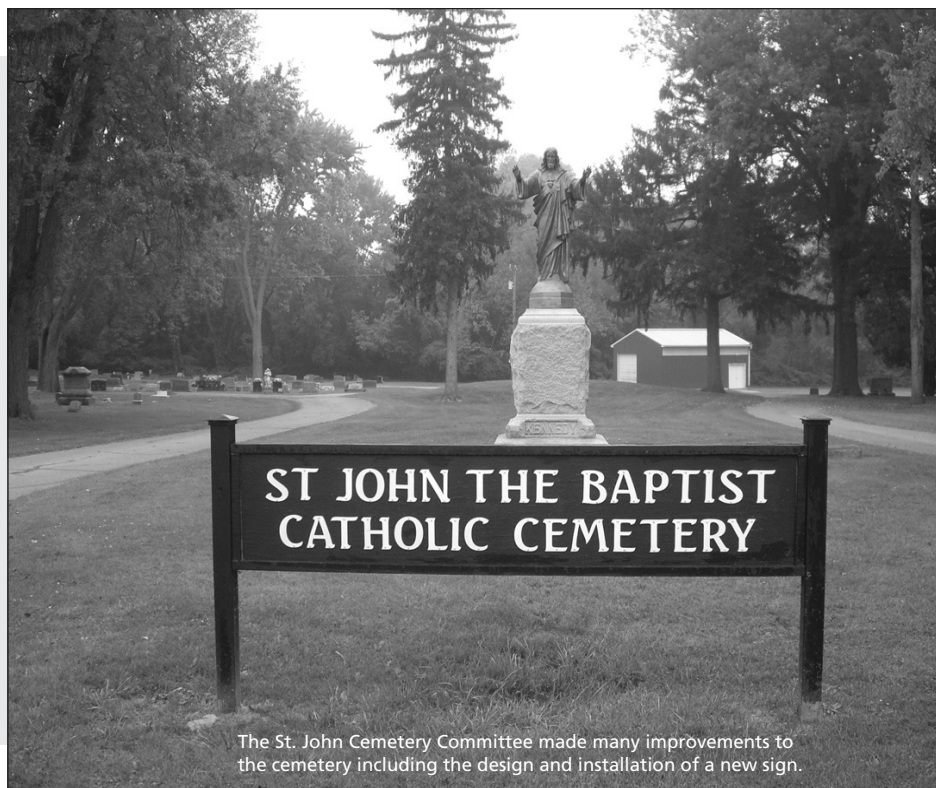


Karen Heddle
Financial Advisor
2058 Washtenaw Ave
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
734-480-8980
karen.heddle@edwardjones.com



Les Heddle, AAMS™
Financial Advisor
2058 Washtenaw Ave
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
734-480-8980
les.heddle@edwardjones.com

edwardjones.com
Member SIPC



The St. John Cemetery Committee made many improvements to the cemetery including the design and installation of a new sign.



Information on the markers included name and date of birth.

New Look for Babyland

BY JAMES MANN

The last act of dignity that is bestowed on every person is burial after death. The consignment of the body to the grave is the last tribute, the final honor each of us receive. The grave is the last, and lasting memorial for the life lived. Sadly, not everyone receives a memorial after burial that is appropriate. There is in every cemetery a section reserved for the remains of children, whose lives ended before truly beginning. In St. John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery this section is called Babyland.

Here, set aside in their own lot, is the final resting place of the young, where those who loved them in life for too short a time, can come to visit and grieve. These graves are marked with headstones as a memorial to the children lost in early death.

Some of these graves were marked not with markers of stone, but with aluminum markers, intended as a temporary stand-in, until the permanent marker was set in place. A number of these intended temporary markers have stood in place for years, even decades. Why a permanent, and more appropriate headstone, was never set in place is unknown. An explanation is, children are born early in a marriage, when money is tight, and the purchase of a stone was be-



Temporary aluminum markers were used to label graves without permanent markers in the Babyland Section.

yond the financial means of the family. Then again, grief may have overwhelmed the family, and the decisions were too painful for the parents to cope with.

The section of the cemetery known as Babyland was filled with permanent headstones mixed with longstanding temporary markers that contrasted with the beauty of the rest of the cemetery. Babyland was, sad to say, an eyesore for visitors to the cemetery.

In 2019, Dr. Alvin Rudisill, a parishioner at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, suggested the establishment of a Cemetery Advisory Board to the

Pastor Fr. Dan Westermann. Fr. Westermann appointed Dr. Rudisill the chair of the advisory board.

As chair of the advisory board, Dr. Rudisill recruited others to help with the project. The mission of the board was the repair and restoration of the cemetery. This work included the repair and roofing of one of the storage sheds at the cemetery, the installation of an office, updating the entrance to the grounds and the improvement of signage. Work was also carried out to improve the general appearance of the cemetery.

"One area that is particularly in need of restoration," noted a letter to cemetery lot holders and members of families interred in the cemetery, "and our current highest priority, is what is



The Babyland markers were installed and replaced the aluminum markers that were used temporarily to identify burials.

now called 'Babyland.' We intend to restore and improve the overall appearance of this sacred space to make it a more dignified resting place and memorial to the infants and children buried there. This will include the purchasing, engraving and placement of markers on all identifiable plots where there are no markers, missing markers, or temporary aluminum markers.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery was originally founded in 1865 on land that is now part of the campus of Eastern Michigan University. In time that site proved inadequate and the present site at 1400 North River Street was purchased in the 1880's. The process of moving the remains from the original cemetery to the present one was carried out in the years that followed.

In time a section of the cemetery was set aside for the interment of the very young, ranging in age from the pre-born to the third year of life. Interments in this section continue today. This section of the cemetery has come to be known as Babyland. The earliest known grave in this section is dated 1939.

This section of the cemetery holds approximately 330 burial sites with 68 having family-provided permanent markers, and some 160 which had no marker, or a "temporary" aluminum marker provided by the funeral home at the time of burial. Some of these "temporary" markers had been in place for years, even decades.

The project began in the spring of 2021 with a mailing sent out to lot holders

and families with relatives interred in the cemetery. The result was \$45,000 contributed to the upkeep of the cemetery, with \$15,000 specifically for the Baby-

land project. At the time the Babyland markers were ordered and installed Tony Comazzi was serving as Chair of the St. John Cemetery Advisory Board.

The next phase of the project was to do research and verify the records. This meant searching through multiple card and paper records and maps. During this research, many errors were found with data missing and discrepancies that required additional research. After rectifying information and cross checking with various sources the data was digitized to Excel format so that in the future this can be uploaded to cemetery management software. Some of those helping with the project purchased 50 lb. bags of paver base and leveling sand. Information was uploaded to the memorial company responsible for the engraving of the markers.

The grave markers were delivered to the cemetery in time for the designated workday of Saturday, September 17, 2023. On that day, in answer to an article in the parish bulletin, several volunteers arrived at the cemetery to help place and set the 166 markers in their proper site.

In only a few hours, an eyesore was transformed into a place of beauty.

The next morning, it was noted, flowers had been placed on some of the new markers.

(James Mann is a local historian, a volunteer in the YHS Archives, and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)



Ladies Literary Club

218 N. Washington Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

www.ladiesliteraryclub.org

Rent our historic 1842 Greek Revival Clubhouse for showers, receptions, business meetings, club meetings and family gatherings.

*For more information
visit our website:*

ladiesliteraryclub.org

Barr, Anhut & Associates, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

105 Pearl Street

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

734-481-1234



John M. Barr, J.D.

jbarr@barrlawfirm.com

Wills, Estate Planning, Probate,
Real Estate, Business,
Family Law, Contracts,
Municipal Law, Litigation

**Highest "AV" Peer Rating
Named "Super Lawyer"**



1895 Ypsilanti High School Baseball Team.

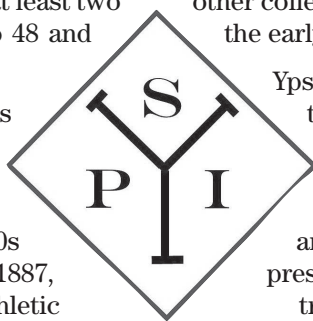
Ypsilanti Baseball Teams

BY ROBERT ANSCHUETZ

Ypsilanti has had a long love affair with baseball dating back to the Civil War. In the 1860s, baseball gained popularity as a form of recreation among soldiers in army camps. Many towns at that time organized baseball clubs to compete against neighboring communities. Records show that in 1867, a team from Ypsilanti played Ann Arbor in a three-game series. Ann Arbor won at least two of the games, with one of scores being 52 to 48 and another being 66 to 27.

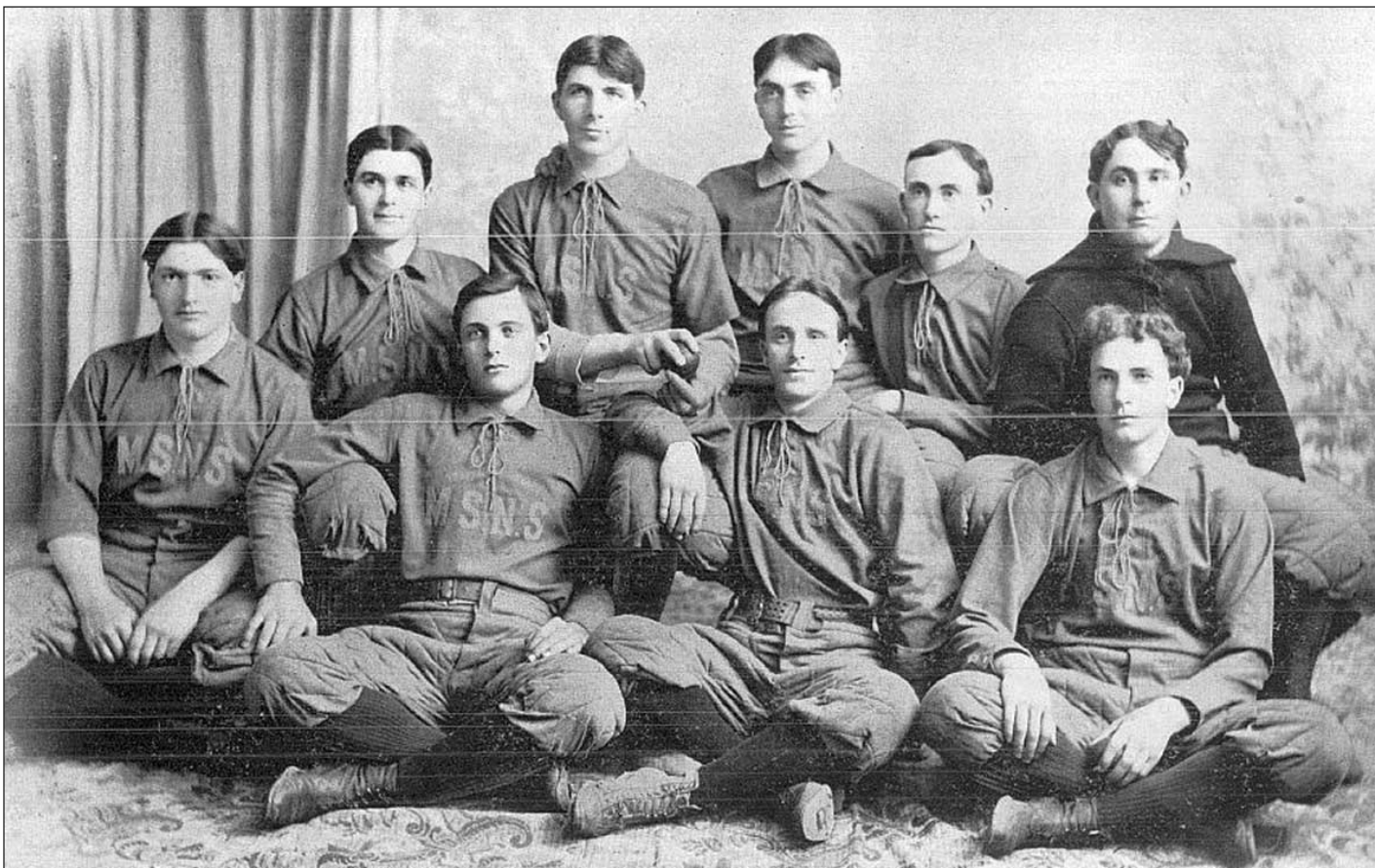
Ypsilanti High School's baseball team dates back to the late 1800's. The YHS team of 1895 was the champion of the state of Michigan. Roosevelt High School also had a baseball team dating back to at least the early 1900s that created an inter-city rivalry with YHS. In 1887, Michigan State Normal School founded its athletic association, with Professor Wilbur Bowen named the director of sports, which consisted of tennis and baseball. In 1893, John Morse was named the base-

ball manager. The next spring, led by a pitcher and catcher battery of Wait and Knapp, the team lost only one baseball game. In 1899, the MSNS baseball team received new uniforms. In the Aurora yearbook, it was stated "*if we win we ought to look well from the start; if we meet defeat and die (at the) game we'll all be ready for the funeral.*" Ypsilanti's other college, Cleary College, also fielded a baseball team in the early 1900s.



Ypsilanti Professional Baseball Team Logo.

Ypsilanti's first professional baseball team beyond the amateur, high school, and college ranks occurred in 1913. On April 16th of that year, the Ypsilanti Baseball Association was organized, consisting of over 200 Ypsilanti businessmen and fans. The officers elected were: M.K. Phillips, president; J.M. Greenman, secretary; Arthur Ament, treasurer; and W.H. Varney, manager. A board of five directors was appointed who had control of all important matters pertaining to the affairs of the team. The directors were E. Matthews, W.H. Var-



1896 Michigan State Normal School Baseball Team.

ney, J.A. Harner, Leon Keusch, and H. Cooney. The financial backing of the team was assured by securing issuance of stocks to each of the 200 members of the YBA at five dollars a share, raising a total of \$1,000.

With the formation of the Ypsilanti Baseball Association, the Ypsilanti team joined the professional minor league Border League, which had been formed in 1912. The Border League, also known as the Eastern Michigan League, was a Class D minor league consisting of five teams from Michigan and one team from Canada. The league was composed of small cities and towns connected by interurban railroads that were enthusiastic about baseball. The teams played a short schedule of approximately 35 games. The six teams comprising

the 1913 Border League were Ypsilanti (no nickname), the Wyandotte Alkalis, the Port Huron Independents, the Pontiac Indians, the Mount Clemens Bathers, and Windsor (no nickname). Mount Clemens disbanded midway through the season on July 12, 1913, and the league folded by the end of the year. The Border League was revised after World War II and operated again from 1946 through 1951, but Ypsilanti

was not part of the second iteration of the league.

The Ypsilanti team played their home games at Recreation Park on the city's west side. The city of Ypsilanti had acquired Recreation Park in 1905. The land had previously been a fairground with a horse racetrack and stables for housing the horses. The city refurbished the half-mile horse track and



1913 Ypsilanti Professional Baseball Team Photograph. Front Row (left to right): Crosman, Leo Hammerschmidt, Robtoy, Manager W.C. "Bunny" Pearce. Back Row (left to right): Percy Wilson, Sam Levinson, B. Gascon, Carl Stimpson, John "Jack" Shafer, Otto Gallant, Ed Standish.



Howlett's Detroit Clown Baseball Team.

created both a football field and a baseball diamond at the center of the property. The city also set aside an area for a winter skating rink. The athletic fields borrowed the same plans as Ferry Field at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The spectator grandstands could seat from 1,000 to 1,200 people. The ballpark at Recreation Park made a perfect home for Cleary College to play its home games, and was also a great fit for the Ypsilanti Border League team.

In addition to the games scheduled against other Border League teams, the Ypsilanti team also played several home exhibition games. The Ypsilanti team scheduled a May 29, 1913 game against the Cuban Stars. The Cuban Stars had earlier defeated the Major League Philadelphia Athletics seven out of nine games and battled the Cincinnati Reds to a scoreless tie after 27 innings. The Ypsilanti baseball team also booked a game against a team composed entirely of Native Americans from the Chippewa tribe. According to an article in the April 27, 1913 *Daily Ypsilantian-Press*, the Chippewa team would "carry a fine band; and a following of (Native Americans) garbed in native costume are in attendance at each game, where war dances are put on." The most unusual exhibition game was scheduled against Howlett's Detroit Clown Baseball team, where "the players are garbed as clowns and are full of funny stunts; but at the same time are fast ball players and in spite of their joke appearance usually win from the best semi-pro teams in the country." It must have been intimidating when a clown came up to bat with the bases loaded and the runner on third base squirted the pitcher with a fake flower corsage.

The Ypsilanti fans were assured of a fast brand of professional baseball and the organization assembled a strong team. Ypsilanti played well in the 1913 Border League, led by manager W.C. "Bunny" Pearce. Most of the players hired for the team were talented youths and semi-pro players from the region, but none really had any hopes to stand out enough to be promoted up to the higher levels of play. Ypsilanti's 1913 Border League roster consisted of the following players: Pitchers: Bell, Crosman, Fanning, B. Gascon, Frank Meredith, Peterson, Ed Standish, and Gordon Tanner; Catcher: Leo Hammerschmidt; First Basemen: John "Jack" Shafer, Otto Gallant, Bell, Lewis, Stark; Second Basemen: Otto Gallant, Percy Wilson, Chambers; Third Basemen: Carl Stimpson, Robtoy; Shortstops: Percy Wilson, Clarke; Outfielders: Sam Levinson, R. Stimpson, Ed Standish, Harry Cady, Robtoy, Lorenz, Bell, Moore, Millman; and Reserves: Harry Cady, Milligan, Nelson, Rigley.

The first professional game played by Ypsilanti was against Windsor on May 24, 1913. The home season opened on May 25 against Wyandotte. Heading into mid-July, the Ypsilanti team surged into first place. As of July 16th, the team had a 12-5 record, for a .706 winning percentage. Four Ypsilanti players were hitting over .400. The local newspaper reported that for the four preceding games, there were big league scouts looking over the team. By July 21, the Ypsilanti team had won 16 of 17 games. The team subsequently cooled down a bit, and Ypsilanti and Wyandotte were neck and neck through the remainder of the 1913 season. Wyandotte had won the league championship in 1912 and were



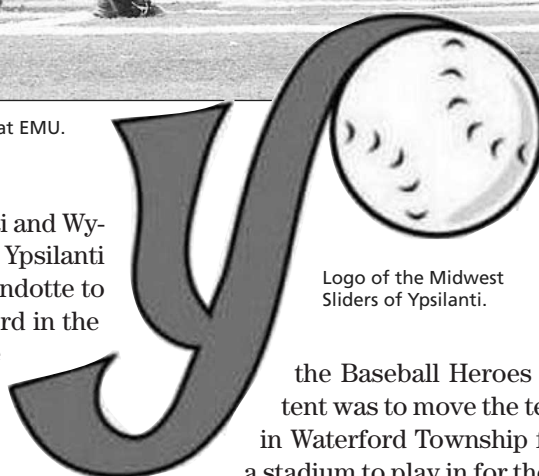
The 2009 Midwest Sliders of Ypsilanti played at Oestrike Field at EMU.

eager to repeat their championship in 1913.

Heading into the final game of the year, Ypsilanti and Wyandotte had won four games against each other. Ypsilanti won the very last game of the year against Wyandotte to win the season series and secure the best record in the league with 24 wins and 10 losses. Wyandotte finished second with 24 wins and 13 losses. With no playoffs, the best team in the regular season won the championship, thus Ypsilanti was declared the champions of the 1913 Border League. Many Ypsilanti players stood out throughout the year. John "Jack" Shafer of Ypsilanti led the league with a .395 batting average. Carl Stimpson of Ypsilanti led the league with 30 runs scored. Bell, Otto Gallant, and Shafer tied for the lead league in home runs with 2, and Shafer led the league in Triples in 7. Pitcher Bell was a perfect 6 wins and 0 losses.

It would be another 96 years before Ypsilanti hosted another professional baseball team, and this one would also last only one season. The Slippery Rock (Pennsylvania) Sliders were formed in 2007 and played in the unaffiliated Frontier League. The Frontier League uses players that either weren't drafted by Major League Baseball or were released by other minor league teams. The Frontier League was said to be on par with a Class A minor league team.

The 2007 Slippery Rock team played the majority of their games on the road, and for the 2008 season they became exclusively a traveling team with no home field, playing



Logo of the Midwest Sliders of Ypsilanti.

with the name "Midwest" on their uniforms. In 2009, the Slippery Rock Sliders were bought by a group of investors from Waterford Township, Michigan, called

the Baseball Heroes of Oakland County. The intent was to move the team into a new 3,800 stadium in Waterford Township for the 2010 season. Without a stadium to play in for the 2009 season, the team owners negotiated with Eastern Michigan University to use the EMU's Oestrike Field.

With the decision to play at EMU, the team would be named the Midwest Sliders of Ypsilanti, and they would have a Y as part of their logo displayed on their green baseball caps. This agreement was jointly announced in October 2008 by EMU Athletic Director, Derrick Gragg, and Sliders President, Rob Hilliard. At the press conference, Hilliard said "We're extremely pleased to call EMU home for the 2009 season and look forward to bringing this affordable, family entertainment activity to the greater Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor area." While the team played in Ypsilanti, some of the players stayed with local families. The team also worked with local business owners to supply part-time jobs for the players on the team while they were in town during the baseball season. The Sliders organization created a few part-time jobs for the community such as a batboy and scorekeeper.

The Midwest Sliders of Ypsilanti played their planned 45-

game home schedule at the 1,300 seat Oestrike Stadium on the EMU campus. Tickets sold for \$8 for adults and \$7 for seniors and children. Season tickets were available for \$315. Even though the stay in Ypsilanti was only meant to be temporary until a new stadium was ready in Oakland County, the Sliders general manager, Bill Terlecky, said that there might be a chance of Ypsilanti landing a permanent minor league team. He suggested that he would look at bringing a Prospect League team to Ypsilanti to backfill the departing Sliders if the season turned out well. Terlecky said this proposed team would use Oestrike Stadium or possibly even build a field on the Water Street property on Michigan Avenue adjacent to the Huron River.

On April 8, 2009, just prior to the start of the baseball season, the Sliders hosted a meet-and-greet for the community at Frenchie's Restaurant in Depot Town. It was at this meeting that the team presented a rendering of how a future ballpark on the Water Street Property might look. Architect Frank X. Arvan of Royal Oak said that the design was created to "fit into the historic context of Downtown Ypsilanti and to create a new civic experience for the city." At the community meeting, the Sliders manager, Eric Coleman, was enthusiastic about the team's move to Ypsilanti and said that "The community has been great. I hope everyone comes and catches a game or two and gets a taste of good baseball."

The team finished the 2009 season with a record of 42-54, finishing in 6th place in the East Division of the Frontier League. The total attendance for the 38 home games (some games were postponed due to weather or moved to away games) was 20,252, averaging an attendance of 533 per game. The Sliders scored 488 runs, but gave up 575 runs. The Sliders' leading hitter was Jimmy Baker, who hit .310 and had 16 home runs. Robbie Knapp drove in 56 runs. Pitcher Mike Penn led the team with 7 wins against 5 losses, and had an earned run average of 4.57.

The pitchers on the 2009 Sliders were Mike Penn, Jimmy Albury, Jeff Fischer, Nolan Shaffer, Adam Dominick, Earl Oakes, Jon Haldis, P. J. Zocchi, Douglas Brooks, Caleb Graham, Nate Kafka, Kevin Gerard, Scott VanEs, Arshwin Asjes, Kyle Wink, Kyle Kearcher, Roberto Mena, Kurt Hayer, Ben Barrone, J. J. Pannell, Zack Pace, Brent Lotito, Kyle Sweat,



Conceptual drawing of an Ypsilanti professional baseball stadium at the Water Street location.

Michael O'Leary, Chris Piotrowski, Eric Gilliland, Chris Rollins, Dan Horvath, and Chris Nyman. The hitters on the 2009 Sliders were Zack Pace, Jimmy Baker, Robbie Knapp, Roberto Mena, Joash Brodin, Brian Bonner, Gil Zayas, Jonnie Knoble, Clay McCord, Sam Deluca, Ben Barrone, Jeremy Jones, Lee Rubin, Ryan Kennedy, Ralph Rosas, Dom Lombardi, Garrett Maines, Stephen Flora, Jonathan Castro, Dennis Jones, Jeff Fischer, Maikel De La Rosa, Eric Gilliland, and Justin Wilson.

The road from the Frontier League to the Major Leagues is a tough one. Alas, none of the Sliders ever saw action in a Major League game. A few made it up to the AA level of the minor leagues, and a pitcher, Caleb Graham, made it as far as the AAA level. After the 2009 season, the Midwest Sliders of Ypsilanti moved to Waterford Township in Oakland County in 2010, and their nickname was changed to the Oakland Cruisers. The proposed Ypsilanti team for the Prospect League never materialized and the Water Street property has remained vacant waiting for another plan.

In the history of Ypsilanti there have been only two professional teams, both lasting only a single season. One team was a champion, the other wasn't, but Ypsilanti residents enthusiastically cheered on both teams. Fortunately, the city has been able to enjoy top-tier college baseball with Eastern Michigan University's success for over 125 years. The city has also supported youth baseball as well as high school baseball and women's softball. Hopefully one day another professional baseball team might come calling and find a welcoming home in Ypsilanti.

(Robert Anschuetz grew up in Ypsilanti in the historic Swaine house at the corner of Forest Ave. and River St. He is a member of the 2023-2024 cohort of the YpsiWrites organization and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)

GLEANINGS SPONSORS

Geraldine Anderson	John and Pattie Harrington	Erik Pedersen
The Anhut 9	Ethylene Hazelwood	Ted Peters
Anschuetz Family	Richard Hopper	Henry J. Prebys
Mike Bachman	Cora Hubbard	Kirk Profit
Jim Baker	Betty Jones	Linda J Randolph
Nancy Balogh and Jeff Kuhns	Val and Mike Kabat	James and Diane Reppke
Mr. and Mrs. Ignace B. Ban Jr.	Rick Katon and Peg DuFresne	Linda Rex
Marlene & John Barr	Grace Chamberlin Kelly	Kimberly Rice, D.D.S., PLC
Lisa and Beth Bashert	Martha Fessler Krieg	Mary Robb
Jay Baxter	Mary Krieger	Elizabeth and
Harry and Kathy Bidelman	Nancie Loppnow	Ricardo Rodriguiz
Penny Blodgett	Sally Lunn	Al and Jan Rudisill
Bomber Restaurant	Maryanne Massey	Allen Salyer
Chuck Bultman	Greg Matthews	Barbara Saxton
Stephen and Barbara Burke	Tom Micallef and Family	Diane Schick
Patricia Butcko	Daniel and Barbara Minzey	Tad and Louise Schmaltz
Alice Calder	Judy Morey	Richard Sprague
Lynne and Tony Comazzi	Jerry Moxley	Robert and Denise Sprague
Sue Crittenden	Mark Naess	Nancy Taylor
Fred and Maria Davis	Dianne Newman	Laurence Thomas
Theresa Davis	Bill Nickels	Scott Virgo
Cliff and Lynne Dickey	David Northrop	Gina and Bill Vollano
Susan Elliott	Dennis and Carol Norton	Linda Wall
Daniel and Lynne Farmer	Derwood Novak	Lisa Walters
Laura Gellott	Marianne Ogden	Carolyn and John Weins
Pam Gibb	Marianne, Denise and Jim	Marie Williams
Bob Giles	(Doc) Ogden	Nelson and Sazy Wood
June and Dennis Gordon	Joel and Sandy Osborn	Daneen Zureich
	Persephone Pappas	

Consider Becoming a YHS Docent



"Having grown up in a bedroom community with little historical preservation, my move to Ypsilanti turned out to be a pleasant awakening. I remember seeing the Civil War pictures on the wall at the Alibi Bar, what today is Aubree's. I was hooked on history!

If you love the idea of a place with a fascinating past you will enjoy being a docent at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum.

It's easy and slow paced with plenty of time to explore the many artifacts of the museum and delve deeper into the city's rich history. "

Docent – Nancy Balogh

if you are interested . . .

Call McKinley at 734 482-4990



Ypsilanti History Center

T-Shirts

Now available
at the
Museum

\$20

med • lg • xl • xxl

Tan or Grey

*Cash or Check
payable to :*

Ypsilanti Historical Society

Call 734.482.4990

email: yhs.museum@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Ypsilanti Historical Society, Inc.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____



Please make check payable to the
Ypsilanti Historical Society
& mail to:

YPSILANTI
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM | ARCHIVES

220 North Huron Street | Ypsilanti, MI 48197

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

		New	Renewal
Single	\$20.00	☐	☐
Family	\$30.00	☐	☐
Sustaining	\$40.00	☐	☐
Business	\$75.00	☐	☐
Patron	\$100.00	☐	☐
Life	\$250.00	☐	☐

Gleanings Advertising Application

	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>1/6 page</i> (2.375"x4.625")	<i>1/3 page</i> (2.375"x9.5")	<i>1/2 page</i> (7.5"x4.625")	<i>Full page?</i> (7.5"x9.5")
Spring Issue (Ads Due March 15)	\$20	\$50	\$75	\$125	\$200
Summer Issue (Ads Due June 15)	\$20	\$50	\$75	\$125	\$200
Fall Issue (Ads Due August 15)	\$20	\$50	\$75	\$125	\$200
Winter Issue (Ads Due November 15)	\$20	\$50	\$75	\$125	\$200

Sponsorship: A list of "Sponsors" is included in each issue. Sponsorship is available at a cost of \$20 per issue.

Company _____ Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOXES

Issue	\$20	\$50	\$75	\$125	\$200
Spring	_____ Sponsor _____	_____ 1/6pg _____	_____ 1/3pg _____	_____ 1/2pg _____	_____ Full _____
Summer	_____ Sponsor _____	_____ 1/6pg _____	_____ 1/3pg _____	_____ 1/2pg _____	_____ Full _____
Fall	_____ Sponsor _____	_____ 1/6pg _____	_____ 1/3pg _____	_____ 1/2pg _____	_____ Full _____
Winter	_____ Sponsor _____	_____ 1/6pg _____	_____ 1/3pg _____	_____ 1/2pg _____	_____ Full _____

Send this form, ad copy & payment to:
Ypsilanti Historical Society
220 N. Huron Street • Ypsilanti, MI 48197

If you have questions call Al Rudisill 734 484-3023



YPSILANTI
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM | ARCHIVES

220 North Huron Street | Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Ypsilanti, Michigan
Permit No. 399

MUSEUM 734 482-4990 | yhs.museum@gmail.com
ARCHIVES 734 217-8236 | yhs.archives@gmail.com

www.ypsihistory.org

WE HAVE HISTORY BETWEEN US, SINCE 1946



L I N C O L N



SESI LINCOLN VOLVO MAZDA

3990 Jackson Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

(734) **668-6100**